COMMANDANT ’S SPECIAL INTEREST

SgtMaj, IGMC

Commandant’s Message

Despite these accomplishments, much work remains to be done. As Marines, we maintain the highest standards and we constantly seek to improve. **We will continue to attack by:**

-- Maintaining a first-rate, well-trained total force of Marines in a high state of readiness.

-- Prioritizing the support of those Marines in harm's way.

-- Developing and fielding MAGTF capabilities that will ensure that the Marine Corps remains an innovative, relevant, naval, expeditionary force-in-readiness.

-- Building upon our success in leader development, professional military education, wounded warrior care, and family readiness.

General Joseph F. Dunford, 36th Commandant of the Marine Corps

Agenda

- **Impact on Force Readiness:**
  - **Taking Care Of Our Own**
  - **Education, awareness, & responsibilities**
  - **Impact on our force**

The Marine Corps

Social Media

Combat Operational Stress

Hazing

Sexual Assault

Suicides

Social Media

- 96% of people under age 30 have joined a social network

- *Social media is accepted and used by the Services to recruit, link families and push information

- *Everything you publish online has the potential to be seen by everyone –not just your friends/family-

*The Social Corps handbook

Social Media

- MARINES SHOULD USE THEIR BEST JUDGMENT AT ALL TIMES AND AVOID INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR THAT COULD BRING DISCREDIT UPON THEMSELVES, THEIR UNIT, AND THE MARINE CORPS
- THIS INCLUDES POSTING ANY DEFAMATORY, LIBELOUS, ABUSIVE, THREATENING, RACIALLY OR ETHNICALLY HATEFUL OR OTHERWISE OFFENSIVE OR ILLEGAL CONTENT
- VIOLATIONS OF FEDERAL LAW AND DOD REGULATIONS OR POLICIES MAY RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY ACTION UNDER THE UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE

* Marines.mil website for guidance
  - MARADMIN 181/10
  - MARADMIN 365/10

http://marines.dodlive.mil/social-media/

Early Warning Signs of Combat Stress

- **Difficulty falling asleep or staying asleep**
- **Unusual fatigue**
- **Difficulty concentrating**
- **Unexplained physical illness**
- **Apathy or carelessness**
- **Lack of temper control**
- **Repeated dreams about bad experiences**
- **Uncontrollable pounding heart, sweating, or breathing**
- **Desire to isolate yourself from other people**

Where to get help

- Chaplain
- Corpsman
- Unit medical officer
- Marine & Family Services
- Community Counseling Services (CCP)
- OSCAR behavioral health professional
- Naval hospital or clinic
- Vet Centers (www.vetcenter.va.gov)

Hazing

- **Conduct by one military member to another that causes suffering or exposure to an activity that is cruel, abusive, humiliating or oppressive, demeaning, or harmful**
- **Updated Hazing order MCO 1700.28B dtd 20 May 2013 (OPREP-3)**
- **Hazing Functional Area Checklist 030**
- **Includes but is not limited to:**
  - Physically striking another to inflict pain
  - Soliciting or coercing another to perpetrate any such activity is hazing
  - Piercing another's skin in any manner
  - Encouraging another to excessively consume alcohol
  - Encouraging another to engage in illegal, harmful, demeaning or dangerous acts

Hazing

- **Why we don't Haze each other:**
  - **Respect, dignity, compassion**
  - **Marines take care of Marines**
  - **Warrior Ethos**
  - **Core Values**
  - **Morality and Character**
  - **Standard Bearer**

Hazing

What to do about hazing?

- **Stop the hazing!**
- **Inform your superiors using the chain of command**
- **If your immediate superiors are involved:**
  - Request Mast to your Commanding Officer or Commanding General
  - Notify your Command Inspector
  - Call the IGMC Hotline at (703) 614-1348/9 or DSN 224-1348/9
  - Use the “Hotline Procedures” found at the “Inspector General” link on www.hqmc.usmc.mil ORGMB.IGMC.HOTLINE@usmc.mil

Sexual Assault

- ***Marines…we have a significant issue with Sexual Assault inside our Corps*** **– let me be clear on how I view this and where I stand.**
- **Sexual Assault is an ugly mark on our proud reputation; *it goes against everything we claim to be as United States Marines…*it is a crime.**
- **This crime is not only completely incompatible with our core values of honor, courage, and commitment, *it is an affront to the basic American principles we so bravely defend.***

2014 SAPR report to POTUS

- **Progress across lines of effort:**
  - **Prevention**
  - **Investigation**
  - **Accountability**
  - **Victim advocacy/assistance**
  - **Assessment**
- **Effective deterrence**
- **Empowered reporting**
- **Zero tolerance**
- **Accountability**

Training

- **Take A Stand Bystander Intervention Training**
  - **Newly promoted NCO's**
  - **3 Hour Training Program:**

  Videos, Mini-Lectures,

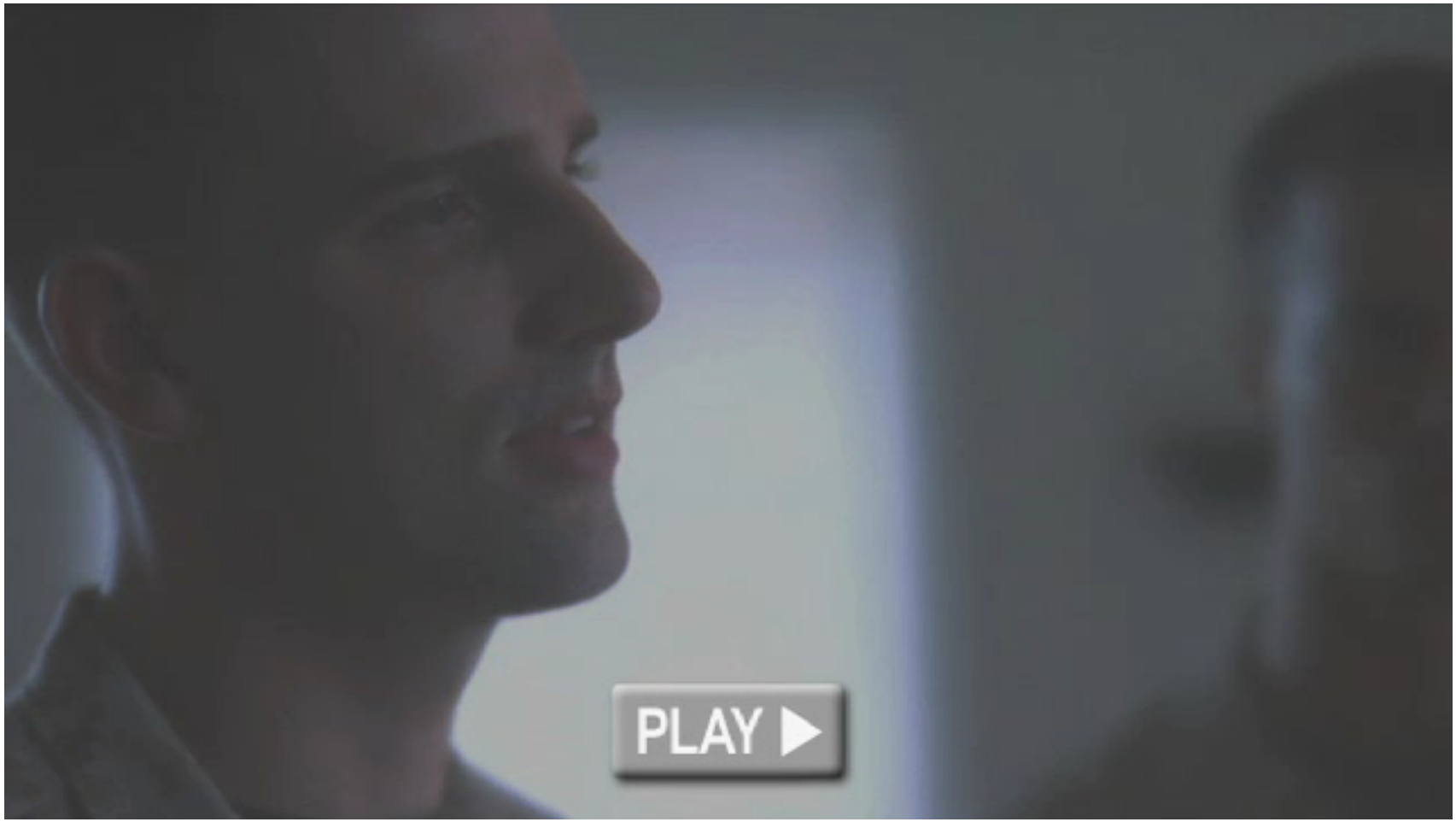
  Guided Discussions, Activities
  - **Taught by Uniformed Victim Advocates**
- **MARADMIN 288/14 released 17 June 2014 (STEP UP)**
- **Annual Training requirements for all Marines**
- **Pre-Deployment Training**
- **MARADMIN 392/13 Civilian training**

Suicide Warning Signs

- **Threatening suicide or self-harm**
- **Putting affairs in order**
- **Giving away favorite possessions**
- **Depression and hopelessness**
- **Increased presence of angry, aggressive, or impulsive behaviors**
- **Decline in job performance and/or appearance**
- **Social isolation and/or withdrawal from family**

80% of suicide attempts / suicides show some warning sign

Engage Suicide



Suicide Prevention/Interventio

PREVENTION

- Community Counseling Program (CCP)
- Suicide Prevention Training
- DStress Line
- Military Family Life Consultants (MFLC)
- Messaging to Combat Stigma
- Family COSC
- Operational Stress Control and Readiness (OSCAR)

INTERVENTION

- Marine Intercept Program (MIP)
- Community Counseling Program (CCP)
- Behavioral Health and BUMED MOU

Unit Marine Awareness and Prevention Integrated Training (UMAPIT)

- MARADMIN 512/14 Effective 1 January 2015, UMAPIT replaces the annual training requirements

  Never Leave A Marine Behind
  Substance Abuse
  Child Abuse
  Domestic Violence Prevention Training

  Training materials available online

Alcohol Abuse and Synthetic Drugs

Impact of Substance Abuse

- **Substance Abuse is associated with:**

  - **Traffic Fatalities / Injuries**
  - **Recreational Fatalities / Injuries**
  - **Attempted Suicides / Completed**
  - **Sexual Assault**
  - **Rape - Offender / Victim**

Binge Drinking

Personal Readiness

1. <u>Individual Responsibility</u>

- Take personal responsibility
- Know yourself and seek self improvement
- Intervene on fellow Marine's behalf
- Embody fitness of body, mind, and spirit

2. <u>Engaged Leadership and Accountability</u>

- Establish intent/Generate buy-in
- Set the example/inspire
- Know your Marines and look out for their welfare
- Instill fitness of body, mind, and spirit
- Supervise
- Foster healthy relationships
- Know available resources

3. <u>Education & Training</u>

- Top-down Leadership approach
  - Small group discussion
- Nested within all facets of training (VBL/T)
  - Entry-level through PME
- Leverage MarineNET sustainment
- Alcohol Risk Assessment Course (18-24 y/o)

4. <u>Treatment</u>

- Improve tracking of alcohol treatment
- Availability and standardization of treatment
- Remove stigma associated with self-referrals
- Professionalize command SACO billet

Synthetic Drugs

- **Spice**

  - **Sold as herbal incense – not for human consumption**
  - **<u>Herbal Smoking Blends</u>**
  - **Contain various synthetic compounds**
  - **Smoked for marijuana-like effects (physical & mental)**

- **Ivory Wave**
  - **Sold as bath salts – not for human consumption**
  - **Comes in the form of tablets or a powder**
    - **Can be swallowed, snorted, or injected**
  - **Similar effects as Cocaine, MDMA and Amphetamines**

- **Mephedrone**
  - **Sold as plant food – not for human consumption**
  - **Chemically related to amphetamine**
  - **Effects**
  - **Increased media reports of use in US**

Policy

- **As of 1 March 2011, five of the substances used to make "fake marijuana" are on the DEA's controlled substance list. This makes smoking Spice ILLEGAL.**
- **MCO 5300.17 (11 Apr 11)**
- **May 2013 SOP for Alcohol Screening Program was released**
- **MARADMIN 364/14: Drug testing and Alcohol Screening Programs/Amplifying guidance**
- **Alcohol abuse and the distribution, possession, use, trafficking or distribution of illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia is contrary to the effective performance of Marines and to the Marine Corps mission, and will not be tolerated.**

Safety:
What's Killing Marines?

Off Duty Deaths

- **FY15**
  - **3 PMV fatalities**
  - **2 Motorcycle fatality**
  - **2 Other (pedestrian, alcohol)**

- **FY14**
  - **17 PMV fatalities**
  - **13 Motorcycle fatality**
  - **13 Other (fall x2, sky diving, flying x2, hypothermia, firearm, water x2)**

- **FY13**
  - **10 PMV fatalities**
  - **14 Motorcycle fatality**
  - **9 Other (train, carbon monoxide, swim, immolation, fall, off road, firearm)**

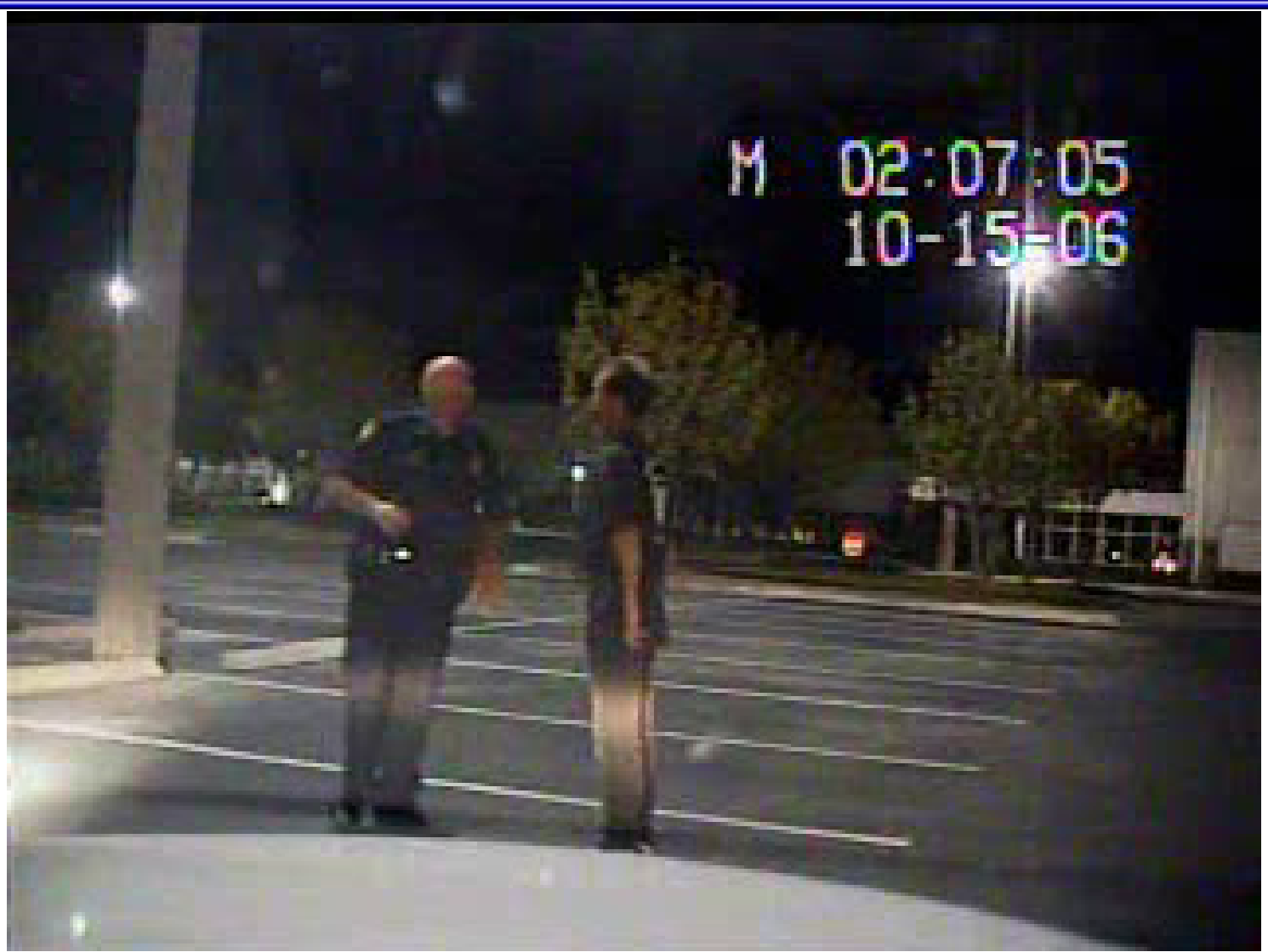
Motorcycle Initiatives

- **Motorcycle Training**
  - **Basic Riders Course (BRC)**
  - **Experienced Riders Course (ERC)**
  - **Military Sport bike Riders Course (MSRC)**
  - **Advanced Rider Track Days (ARTD)**
- **Mentorship Program / Unit Motorcycle Clubs**
  - **Forums – Where the riders talk**
  - **Events – News about upcoming events and rides**
  - **Motorcycle Info – Info on buying your first bike**
  - **Where to Ride – Dirt bike Tracks & Street bike Tracks**
  - **Purchase Gear – Links and coupons to purchase motorcycle gear**
- **MCTFS Codes – For motorcycle training**

- **New Level Two Motorcycle training: Riders Essential Skills Training (REST)**

Safety

Safety



Safety

United States Marine Corps

"We will keep faith with our Marines, Our sailors, and our families."